GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:762
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCESS OF GRANT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to simplify the process of grant of environmental clearance to various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of projects including irrigation and other development projects under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are pending with the Government for environmental clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof as on date and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which simplifying the process of according environmental clearance will help in clearing the pending projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Environmental Clearance Process has been revised through an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued vide S.O. No. 1533 (E) dated 14th September, 2006 to make the Environmental Clearance Process more transparent efficient and de-centralized with certainty in time frame.

(c)&(d) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 deals with Forest Clearances in respect of projects involving Forest Land and Environmental Clearances are dealt under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The proposals under each act are considered independently irrespective of the provisions of either act. Hence there is no question of development projects pending for environment clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(e) The EIA Notification, 2006 provides for Scoping for preparation of quality EIA Report, Structured Public Consultations with stipulated time frame, Decentralization of environmental clearance by constituting State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEAC) and time limits at each stage, thus enabling speedy clearance of projects.